

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
District of Vermont

Thomas J. Hart
Clerk of Court

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Court Users
FROM: Thomas J. Hart
DATE: April 26, 2007
RE: Video Conferencing Availability

As part of our on-going effort to expand access to the Bankruptcy Court and to reduce costs to court users, we will be offering court hearing participation through video conferencing on the days the Court is holding hearings in Rutland. We will begin a trial period on May 8th in order to evaluate video conferencing in an operational environment. During this trial period, the Bar is encouraged to provide feedback on quality, location and any other matter you feel is germane to video conferencing. Criteria for scheduling and appearing for hearings via video conferencing is attached to this announcement and posted on the courts website www.vtb.uscourts.gov.

Currently the following dates and locations have been scheduled for the trial period:

May 8, 2007 between the hours of 10:15 – 11:45 am at the following Vermont Interactive TV sites:
Williston, Waterbury, Lyndonville, Brattleboro and White River Junction,

May 22, 2007 from 9:30am to 12:00 noon at the following Vermont Interactive TV sites:
Williston, Waterbury, Newport, Brattleboro and White River Junction,

June 19, 2007 from 9:30am to 12:00 noon at the following Vermont Interactive TV sites:
Williston, Waterbury, Lyndonville, Brattleboro and White River Junction.

If the nature of your hearing and appearance meets the criteria established for appearing via video conferencing, you may appear at any of the above listed sites or at the Rutland Bankruptcy Court location where Judge Brown will be sitting. Information on the locations of the Vermont Interactive TV ("VIT") video conferencing sites may also be found on the court's website under

<http://www.vtb.uscourts.gov/schedhrg.php>.

VIDEO CONFERENCING CRITERIA

Appearances via video conferencing will be available on designated calendar days, identified on the court's website.

Attorneys may appear at a remote video conferencing site when -

1. their level of participation is for observation only,
2. the attorney's appearance is merely to place consent on the record or work out a schedule on the record (for example PTC),
3. the length of combined attorney argument is not reasonably expected to last more than 15 minutes

Video Conferencing may not be used for –

1. Chapter 12 & 13 Confirmation hearings,
2. Chapter 11 Confirmation hearings (except by attorneys or parties who meet above criteria)
3. trials and evidentiary matters,
4. hearings requiring extensive legal argument, i.e., more than 15 minutes total (for example argument on Motions for Summary Judgment),
5. hearings where the court has specified in the hearing notice, or otherwise (eg., at a prior hearing) that parties must appear at the Court location,

Hearing Notices for Video Conferencing hearings are to contain the following language:

A HEARING ON THE MOTION and any responses will be held at [time] on [date] at the following locations: U.S. Bankruptcy Court, The Opera House, 67 Merchants Row, Rutland, Vermont and and selected Vermont Interactive Television sites (see attached list*)

* The list of Video Conferencing locations is available to download on the website and must be attached to the hearing notice

Special Video Conferencing Circumstances

1. Emergency weather conditions (when VC is available & with permission by the court)
2. Trial witness – upon Order of the court
3. Extraordinary or other emergency circumstances (when VC is available & with permission by the court)

Questions concerning appearances via video conference should be addressed to: Terri Satterlee, Courtroom Deputy at (802)776-2010 or Terri_Satterlee@vtb.uscourts.gov.